

# **ARPA-E MOVE Annual Meeting Home & Vehicle Refueling Projects**

Performer Presentations  
5-Minute Overviews

October 16, 2014

# Awardee Presentation Schedule

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- 1. Onboard Dynamics – Jeff Witwer**  
Vehicle Integrated Natural Gas Compressor
- 2. Eaton Corporation – Clark Fortune**  
Near Isothermal CNG Liquid Piston Compressor
- 3. University of Texas at Austin – Michael Lewis**  
Free Piston Linear Motor Compressor for Natural Gas Home Refueling

# Vehicle Integrated Natural Gas Compressor

Jeff Witwer, PhD, PE  
VP of Engineering  
[Jeff.Witwer@onboarddynamics.com](mailto:Jeff.Witwer@onboarddynamics.com)



# Combine existing resources in a novel way

- **\$1GGE fuel for vehicle operators (>50% reduction)**
- **Elimination of infrastructure problem**
- **Dramatic cost savings vs. building a CNG station (\$500-2000 per vehicle vs. >\$100K per station)**

# Accomplishments and Lessons

## Lessons learned from Phase 1

- ✓ Bi-modal engine concept is feasible and proven
- ✓ Increasing load on engine (faster fill rate) is essential to reduce parasitic losses
- ✓ Careful head design is critical (e.g., minimize clearance volume) for maximum performance

# Vehicle Integrated Natural Gas Compressor



- Experienced founding team
- Preliminary business plan
- MOVE Award received Sept 9, 2014
- Matching funds from private investors and Oregon State agencies

## Phase 2 Key Objectives 2014-2016

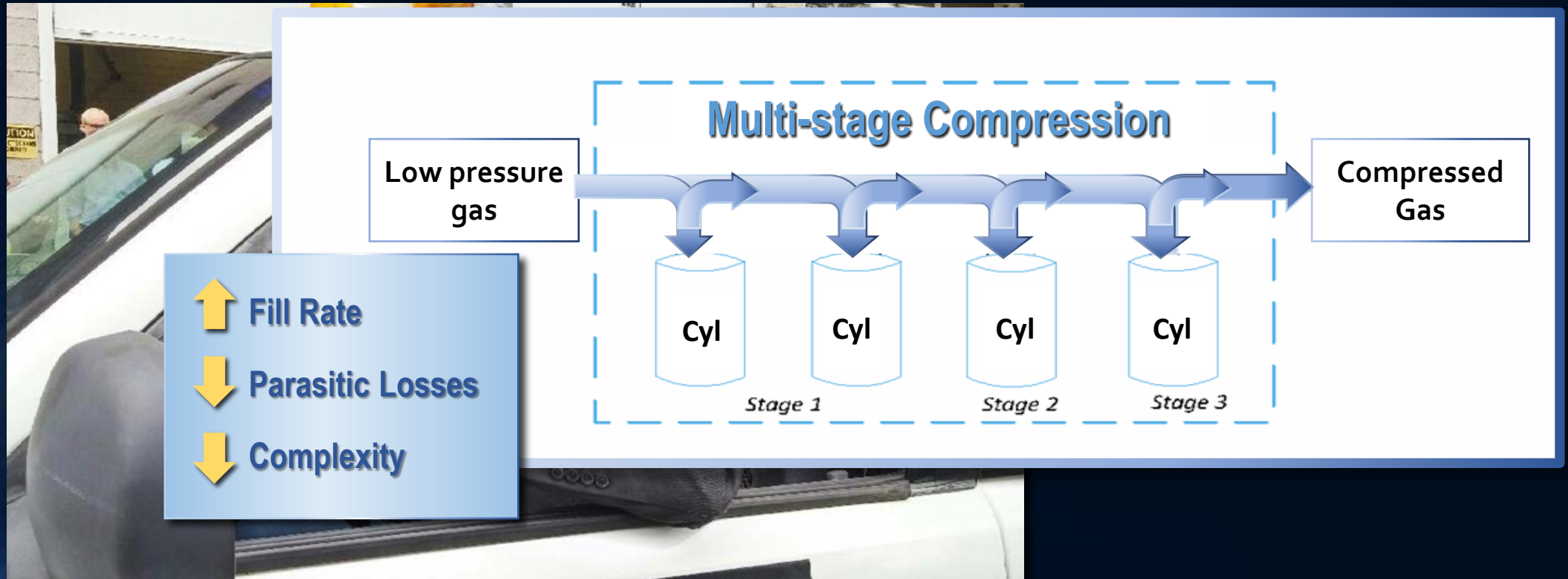
- Use multiple cylinders = reduce fill time and losses
- Base on available CNG-prep V8 engine
- Fabricated and on test stand in 12 months
- Target standard production heavy duty, bi-fuel pickups in fleets too small for standard compressors
- Validate target market for early commercialization
- Refine market size and entry strategy



# Completed Project and Next Phase

Phase 1: 2012-2014    Phase 2: 2014-2016

OSU/ Natural Gas Vehicle Club Self-Dynamics Hybrid Filling Station Natural Gas Compressor



# Execution and Transition Strategies

**Commercial Production**

**Introduce In-Cylinder Product**

- Ready for demonstration in 18 months
- To be licensed to vehicle OEMs

**Introduce Aftermarket Product(s):**

- Gain user experience and metrics with fleets
- Validate market interest and adoption

**Product Roadmap**

Initial product suitable for aftermarket installation

**ARPA-E Award**

Engineering and commercialization of in-cylinder technology

**2014**

**2015**

**2016**

**2017**



# Onboard Dynamics is Hiring

## Lead Project Engineer

*Live and work in beautiful Bend, Oregon*

For more information, visit  
<http://www.onboarddynamics.com/careers>

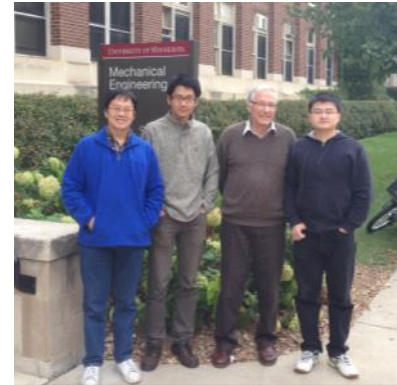
# Near Isothermal CNG Liquid Piston Compressor

Eaton / University of Minnesota  
Clark Fortune, Principal Engineer  
248-226-6839 gclarkfortune@eaton.com

## Team Members & Organizations



### System and Manufacturing



### Modeling and Simulation



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>

# Near Isothermal CNG Liquid Piston Compressor

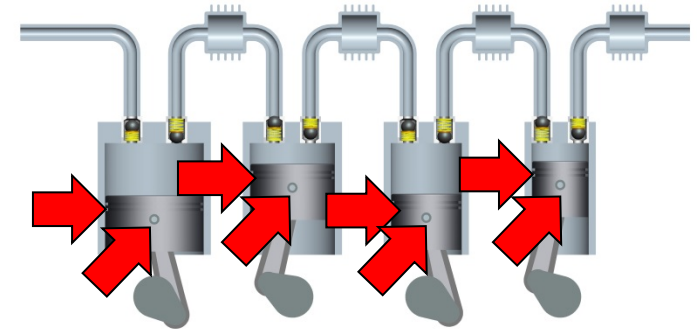
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## Innovation

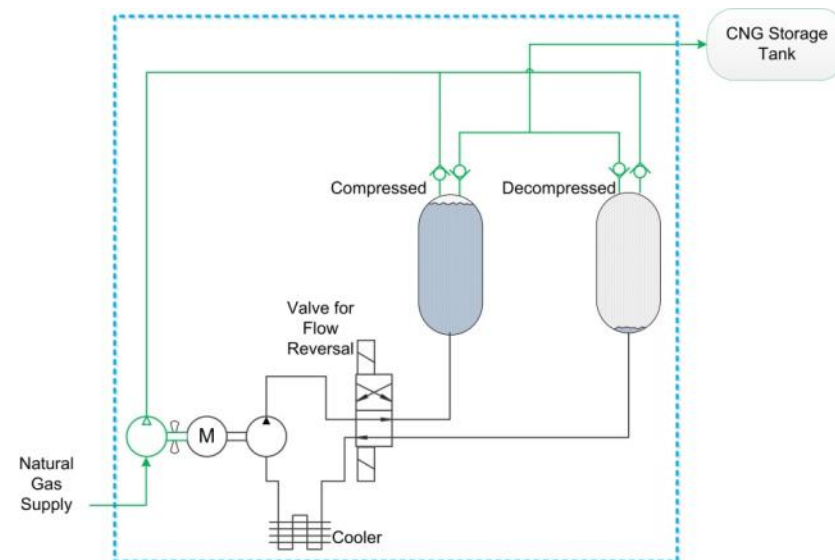
### Problem to Solve – Minimize CNG Compressor Total Owning and Operating Costs

Value Hypothesis – Eaton's Liquid Piston Compressor has higher reliability and lower maintenance requirements than today's reciprocating piston compressors.

Failure Mode	Reciprocating Piston Compressor	Eaton Liquid Piston Compressor
Piston rings, packing, bushings, crank bearings	Maintenance required	Maintenance eliminated
Life – impact by load cycling	900 cycles/minute	4 cycles/minute (longer life)
Life – impact by temperature	Internal temps 180C+	Internal temps < 60C (longer life)



On-Demand Strip Rep/SUCTD\_CYLINDERS



# Near Isothermal CNG Liquid Piston Compressor

Eaton / University of Minnesota  
Clark Fortune, Principal Engineer  
248-226-6839 gclarkfortune@eaton.com

## Objectives

- Key Technical Targets for ARPA-E funded Prototype:
  - Peak Gas Temperature < 120 C at 10 gge/h flow and 4500 psi pressure
    - Near-Isothermal Liquid Piston Compression
  - Oil Carryover < 100 ppm
    - Industry Standard Coalescing Filter technology
- Key Challenges
  - Thermodynamic process/modeling
  - Market and Business Opportunity Quantification

Target Requirements	MOVE Targets for Home Refueler	Reciprocating Piston Compressors	Eaton Prototype Compressor	Eaton Liquid Piston Compressor
Flow Rate	1 gge/h	10 to 200 gge/h	10 gge/h	10 to 200 gge/h
Max. Pressure	3600 psi	4500 psi	4500 psi	4500 psi
Target Cost	\$500 (\$/gge/h)	1600 to 5000 (\$/gge/h) *		1600 to 5000 (\$/gge/h)*
Operating Life	10 y	10-20 y	1000 h	> 20 y

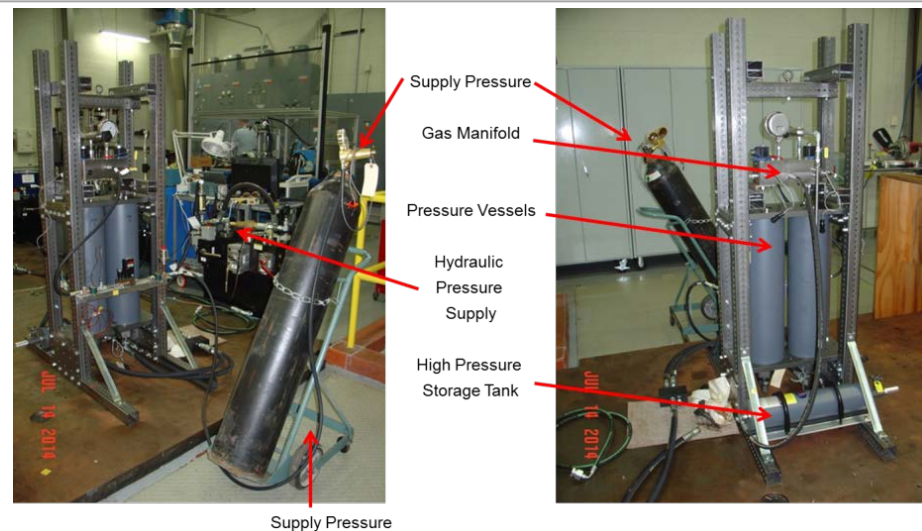
\* Source: Margaret Smith, John Gonzales. "Costs Associated with Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure-Factors to consider in the implementation of fueling stations and equipment." Clean Cities, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, US Department of Energy. Report Sept 2014. Print.

# Near Isothermal CNG Liquid Piston Compressor

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## Accomplishments Phase 2 (4Q13 – 3Q14)

- ✓ **Selection of working fluid**
- ✓ **Lab experimentation** →
  - ✓ Liquid Piston Compression of Nitrogen
  - ✓ Thermodynamic Model Validation
  - ✓ Identification of new issues – CR control
- ✓ **Methane solubility** – novel engineering solution conceived.
- ✓ **Learnings and how we changed our approach**
  - ✓ Light-duty CNGV payback time
    - ✓ Niche unless payback < 2 y
    - ✓ Home Refueling Market = f(LD CNGV mkt)
  - ✓ Commercial Vehicle CNGV growth here now
  - ✓ Pivot to Commercial Vehicle CNG Compressors
- **Key technical challenges left to mitigate**
  - Oil carryover, methane solubility, controlling compression ratio



## Planned Activities – Phase 3 (4Q14 – 4Q15)

- **Develop Compressor System Prototype**
  - Revise design
  - Procure and build
  - Commission/characterize
  - Test
- **Technology to market – Business Case Development**

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## Transition

Assuming technical success:

Eaton will continually assess commercial viability and opportunity.

- Eaton will accelerate or decelerate development efforts accordingly.

Eaton would like to discuss possible next steps with potential customers/partners.

- What channel partners would be interested in working with us to evaluate/demonstrate/develop the offering?
  - Compressor packagers
  - Station integrators/developers
  - End users
- What might a demonstration project look like?
- What external funding might be available for joint efforts?



# Free Piston Linear Motor Compressor for Natural Gas Home Refueling

University of Texas - Center for Electromechanics  
Michael Lewis, Sr. Engineer Scientist (PI)  
(512) 232-5715  
[mclewis@cem.utexas.edu](mailto:mclewis@cem.utexas.edu)

## Project Team

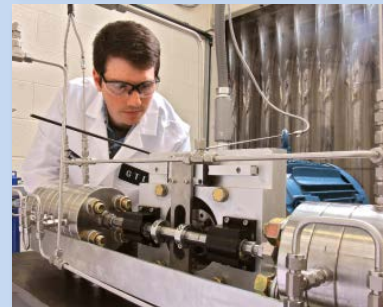
*University, Non-profit R&D organization, and National Lab with strong ties to private industry and successful track record of bringing new technologies to market.*



The University of Texas at Austin  
Center for Electromechanics



Gas Technology Institute

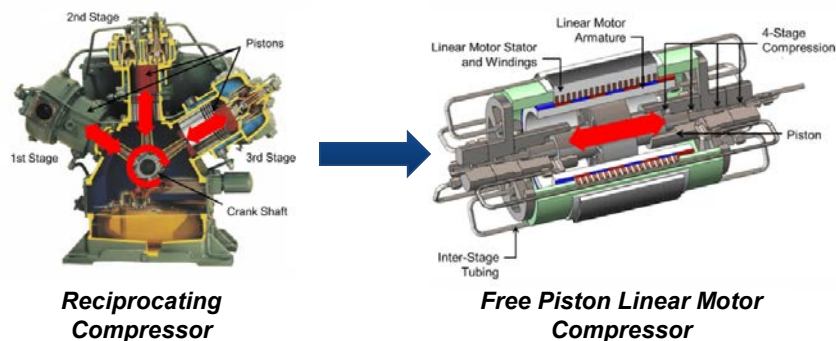


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## Innovation

## REDUCED COMPLEXITY AND COST



Metric	Current	MOVE	UT-CEM
Cost	\$4,000	\$500	<b>\$2,000 *</b>
Parasitic Load (kWh/GGE)	1.7	<1.7	<b>&lt;1.7</b>
Flow Rate (GGE/hr)	0.5 - 1	1	<b>1</b>
Fill Pressure (bar)	250	250	<b>250</b>
Life (hrs)	<5,000	15,000	<b>&gt;&gt;5,000</b>
Weight (lbs)	150	50	<b>100</b>

### Increased Efficiency

- Single moving part with no motion conversion
- Resonant frequency operation
- Dry, low friction seals with no oil carryover

### Increased Life

- Reduced part count and serviceable design
- Near frictionless carbon seals with low wear

### \* Free Piston Linear Motor Compressor HRA Cost

<b>Compressor –</b>	<b>\$500 - 750</b>
<b>HRA accessories –</b>	<b>\$500 - 800</b>
<b>HRA Installation –</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Total Installed Cost –</b>	<b>\$2000</b>

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## Accomplishments

### Seal and Coating Development

- Tested two dozen NFC seal and coating systems
- Achieved friction coefficient of 0.05
- Demonstrated >3,000 hr seal life and still counting!
- Passed seal life Go/No-Go decision point

### Linear Motor Design and Testing

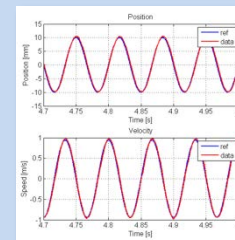
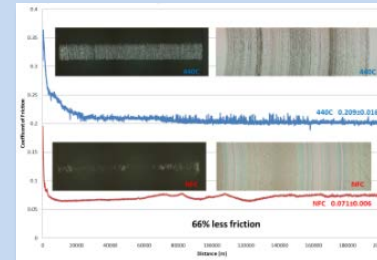
- Studied 6 linear motor variants, balancing performance and cost
- Demonstrated resonant frequency operation and tight position control surpasses MOVE efficiency targets

### Compressor Design and Testing

- Engineered and tested custom valves
- Optimized intercooler design for cost
- Designed compressor for serviceability

### Patent Application Filed

- Covers free piston linear motor compressor system
- Separate filings being considered for subsystems



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## Next Activities – Demonstration testing!

**Completed 38 of 48 project milestones**

### Laboratory Demo Unit

- Testing to begin end-2014
- Undergo 1,000 hour demonstration by mid-2015

### Second Demo Unit fabrication nearly complete

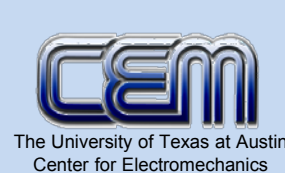
- Testing to begin early-2014
- Thermal testing at high/low ambient temps
- Recommendation of team advisory panel

**Demonstrate reliable and continuous operation  
under varying ambient thermal conditions**



## Transition

**Team composed of three non-profit entities  
with no Industrial Partner on team lined up to  
make transition to commercialization easily**



**Commercialization pathway has not been  
established**

**- Start-up business, licensee deal, or joint  
development partnership**

### Next Stage Tasks:

- Refine Prototype
- Engineer Pre-production Compressor
- Develop and Package as HRA
- Carry-out Field Demos
- Obtain Regulatory Certification

**Seeking funding and partners for next stage  
prototype development prior to field demos**